

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04356 120731Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

HA-05 /070 W

-----030024 120734Z /17

R 120655Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2339

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4356

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PK

SUBJECT: ISLAMIC LAW IN PAKISTAN

1. EMBASSY OFFICER HAS DISCUSSED WITH SENIOR PAKISTAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL SAUDI PRESS AGENCY STORY APPEARING IN JUNE 10 ARAB NEWS THAT GENERAL ZIA AL-HAQQ CONFERRED THURSDAY, JUNE 8, WITH SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN SHAIKH RIAD AL-KHATIB ABOUT APPLICATION OF ISLAMIC LAW (SHARI'A) IN PAKISTAN.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, ZIA IS EXPECTED TO INTRODUCE A NUMBER OF SHARI'A-BASED MEASURES THIS MONTH. HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT PAKISTAN CONSIDERED SAUDI ARABIA AND ITS LEADERSHIP AS SOURCE OF GUIDANCE. LATER THAT SAME DAY, AMBASSADOR RIAD AT RECEPTION IN RAWALPINDI PRAISED PAKISTAN FOR ITS FIRM ADHERENCE TO ISLAMIC LAW, MUSLIM VALUES AND SPIRIT OF JIHAD.

3. PAKISTAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL REACTED VERY NEGATIVELY TO THIS ACCOUNT. HE NOTED THAT MUCH OF SUPPORT BEHIND PRESENT DRIVE FOR IMPLEMENTATING ISLAMIC LAW IN PAKISTAN COMES FROM CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND SPIRIT OF SHARI'A AND THINK THAT ENFORCING IT MEANS CHOPPING OFF HANDS. HE NOTED THAT EVERYONE IN PAKISTAN SUPPORTS ISLAMIC LAW AND THAT PAKISTAN'S CONSTITUTION REQUIRES THAT ALL LEGISLATION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 04356 120731Z

CONFORM TO THE SHARI'A AND PROVIDES FOR A COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS JUDGES AND SCHOLARS TO ENSURE SUCH CONFORMITY.

4. HE SAID THAT MOST EDUCATED PAKISTANIS ARE DISTRESSED BY PRESENT TENDENCY TO EQUATE SHARI'A WITH SAUDI PRACTICE AND THAT THEY SUPPORTED A MORE LIBERAL AND BROAD-MINDED APPLICATION OF ISLAMIC LAW SUCH AS ADVOCATED BY MOHAMMAD

ALI JINNAH. THIS GROUP FEELS THAT TRUE ISLAMIC SPIRIT
REQUIRES THAT A THEIF MUST HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO EARN
HONORABLE LIVING BEFORE APPLICATION OF STRICT PENALTY
DEPRIVES HIM OF THAT OPPORTUNITY.

5. COMMENT: SAUDIS HAVE FOLLOWED ISLAMIC TRENDS IN
PAKISTAN WITH GREAT INTEREST AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY
LIKE TO SEE PAKISTAN CONFORM MORE TO WAHHABI IDEALS OF
JUSTICE AND GOVERNMENT. HOW FAR THE SAUDIS WILL GO IN
ENCOURAGING THIS TREND IS AN OPEN QUESTION. IF ASKED,
THEY WILL SAY THAT THIS IS INTERNAL PAKISTANI MATTER, AND
ALL THEY WILL DO IS OFFER ADVICE IF REQUESTED.

WEST

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, MOSLEMS, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA04356
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780244-0921
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780671/aaaacisv.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c3ce568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2397265
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISLAMIC LAW IN PAKISTAN
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PK, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c3ce568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014